



# Aishihik re-licensing Progress Report

## September 2018

Yukon Energy's water use license for the Aishihik hydro facility expires at the end of 2019. The license, along with a Fisheries Act Authorization, sets out the rules for how the facility can operate. In January 2016, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) and Yukon Energy agreed to take a new, more collaborative approach to the water license renewal. We are working in partnership on proposed terms and conditions for a new license and have a Protocol Agreement in place for the co-management of the license renewal process. Together we are reviewing and weighing all possible options for operating the lake and downstream flows.

We are getting close to the end of this process and hope to conclude this stage of our work by this fall.

See page 2 of this sheet for next steps.

## Co-management – how does it work?

We have established a steering committee (one member each from CAFN and Yukon Energy) to oversee the work and provide high level guidance. Two advisory committees have been established. One is the Aishihik Advisory Committee (made up of CAFN, Yukon Energy, various government departments and agencies as well as non-governmental organizations) that makes recommendations on technical issues. That committee's final goal is to recommend the future operation of the lake and the downstream flows. The other committee is made up of eight appointed CAFN citizens who provide community perspectives and input into the process. We also maintain consultation with CAFN and the public.

## What options are being considered?

The options are wide ranging, from maintaining the *status quo* with some operational flexibility, to returning the lake to levels seen before the Aishihik generating facility was built.

## What studies have been done, and did you consider traditional knowledge?

CAFN is leading the traditional knowledge research. That work, when complete, will help inform and make decisions about the project.

There has been significant research done by a team of consultants directed by both CAFN and Yukon Energy. The studies address the impact of the Aishihik generating facility on water, the land around the lake and downstream from it, fish, animals, and people.

## Timeline

